

TRI-CREEK AMBULANCE SERVICE AGENCY, INC.  
1331 EAST COMMERCIAL AVENUE  
LOWELL, INDIANA 46356  
219-696-8610

RE: DOCKET NO. FD 35952

A RESOLUTION BY THE TRI-CREEK AMBULANCE AGENCY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS WAS PASSED OPPOSING THE PROPOSED GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, LLC HIGH SPEED RAIL LINE DESIGNED TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE TRI CREEK AMBULANCE DISTRICT. THE RESOLUTION SIGNED BY BOARD PRESIDENT: RANDALL WIETHBROCK, VICE-PRESIDENT: HAROLD MUSSMAN, JR., SECRETARY: DANIEL BLANKENSHIP AND TREASURER: MICHAEL MCINTIRE.

A meeting of the Tri-Creek Ambulance Agency, Inc. board held on May 9, 2016 cited numerous reasons for its opposition to the proposed rail line and why it would be bad for the residents and taxpayers of the Tri Creek Ambulance district.

1. Responses to ambulance calls on the other side of the rail line could, and in most cases would, be delayed by lowered crossing gates and trains passing through the area blocking railroad crossings. This could result in the loss of lives of taxpaying residents in the area. It would also delay transporting patients to the hospitals or medical centers that are all located north of the proposed rail line. Even establishing another location for housing ambulances and paramedics on the south side of the rail line would not alleviate the barrier problem that prevents easy and fast access to medical facilities; it would only provide faster response times for patients to receive immediate care. This would come as an added cost and burden for the taxpayers in the area. Residents pay for these services and should not be deprived of them by a rail line that is not needed in this area. Existing rail lines are available to transport goods now.
2. Revenues will be reduced to provide for ambulance services in southern Lake County and the Tri-Creek area since the right-of-way property will be removed from local tax rolls and will be set, determined and collected by the state of Indiana and overseen by the Department of Local Government (DLGF) in Indianapolis.
3. Adding new rail lines through the area will increase the risk of accidents and death to drivers and pedestrians in the area. Farmers crossing these tracks with large farm machinery are at a very high risk of being struck by trains while crossing the tracks which will increase the need for more ambulance calls. That comes at a cost to the taxpayers, too. Right now the Tri-Creek Ambulance Agency, Inc. is funded by the three townships that it serves; West Creek Township, Cedar Creek Township and Eagle Creek Township. Reduced revenue from farm production and property taxes from the right-of-way increases the burden on the remaining residents of the townships. The ambulance agency will suffer from these losses and make it more difficult to provide the quality services we are able to offer now.
4. Accidents caused by the trains such as fires or derailments would require additional manpower and more emergency equipment. Paramedics could be faced with horrific injuries to persons in the case of a train derailment or train on train collision.

These things do happen in real life. That would also burden the agency with little hope of recouping the cost for added personnel and equipment.

IN SUMMARY THE PROPOSED RAIL LINE BY GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, LLC. WOULD ADVERSLY AFFECT OUR AGENCY AND THE PEOPLE IT SERVES. WE REQUEST THAT THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD (STB) DENY THIS PROJECT. WE HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN SOUND REASONS FOR PURPOSE AND NEED TO JUSTIFY THE DAMAGE IT WILL CAUSE. THEREFORE THIS BOARD HAS APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS RESOLUTION AND WILL SUBMIT IT TO THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD (STB).

SIGNATURES

*Randall Wietbrock*

Randall Wietbrock, Board President

*Harold Mussman, Jr.*

Harold Mussman, Jr., Vice-President

*Daniel Blankenship*

Daniel Blankenship, Secretary

*Michael Mc Intire*

Michael Mc Intire, Treasurer

Date: May 9, 2016

*Bruce McNeil*

*Lorraine Monow*

*Eagle Creek Twp Trustee*

*Alce & Dahl*

*Cedar Creek Township Trustee*

*Patricia R. Kasper West Creek*  
*Judith A. Mathias*